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JULY 8, 1961

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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 22, JULY 8, 1 PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 22, BONN 18, INFORMATION PARIS, LONDON, MOSCOW, POLAD USAREUR UNNUMBERED.

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EAST BERLIN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND JULY 8 CARRIED STATEMENT BY EAST BERLIN CITY MAGISTRAT REMINDING ALL EAST GERMAN RESIDENTS WHO WORK IN WEST BERLIN (GRENZGAENGER) THAT THEY MUST COMPLY STRICTLY WITH 1953 REGULATION REQUIRING EAST BERLINERS AND SOVZONE RESIDENTS TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM EAST BERLIN LABOR OFFICE BEFORE ACCEPTING WORK IN WEST BERLIN. STATEMENT SAID THAT MANY COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM GDR CITIZENS ABOUT GRENZGAENGER WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK FOR CAPITALISTS IN WEST BERLIN WHILE BENEFITING FROM LOWER FOOD, RENT, ELECTRICITY AND GAS PRICES IN EAST BERLIN. NEWSPAPER ADDED THAT APPEALS OF GRENZGAENGER AGAINST EVICTION FROM LOW-COST COOP HOUSING ARE BEING PROPERLY REJECTED BY "DEMOCRATIC ORGANS OF WORKERS HOUSING COOPS."

STATEMENT, FIRST OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON SUBJECT IN LONG TIME, IS PART OF RECENTLY STEPPED-UP BUT STILL LARGELY INEFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO PRESSURE GRENZGAENGER TO TAKE WORK IN EAST BERLIN.

WEST BERLIN OFFICIALS AS YET UNCERTAIN RE SIGNIFICANCE OF MAGISTRAT ANNOUNCEMENT, SINCE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF ISSUE, I.E., NUMBER OF UNREGISTERED EAST BERLINERS ACTUALLY WORKING IN WEST BERLIN, UNKNOWN AND MOST DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE. PRELIMINARY SENAT ESTIMATE IS THAT OF MORE THAN 50,000 BORDER-CROSSERS, 18,000 TO 20,000 MAY NOT BE REGISTERED. EAST GERMAN ANNOUNCEMENT MAY WELL BY CALCULATED TO INTIMIDATE THESE INTO

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-2- 22, JULY 8, 1 PM, FROM BERLIN

REGISTERING. SENAT SOURCE BELIEVES THAT IF CONTROLS INSTITUTED TO PREVENT BORDER-CROSSERS FROM COMING TO WEST BERLIN, LARGE NUMBER OF THEM WOULD TURN REFUGEES TO REMAIN IN WEST. IN FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT SENAT SPOKESMAN HAS STRESSED THAT FREEDOM OF CIRCULATION ALSO INVOLVES FREEDOM WORK IN WEST BERLIN.

LIGHTNER

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